

HOUSE RESOLUTION 179

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Coretta Scott King of Atlanta, Georgia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Coretta Scott King; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King was an extraordinary leader of the civil rights movement who worked assiduously to advance the rights and improve the opportunities of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, born in Heiberger, Alabama, on April 27, 1927, Coretta Scott King was the daughter of Obediah Scott and Bernice McMurray Scott; and

WHEREAS, after graduating at the top of her class from Lincoln High School in Marion, Alabama, in 1945, Coretta Scott King graduated from Antioch College in Ohio in 1951, where she majored in music and education; and

WHEREAS, she later studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Coretta Scott married Martin Luther King, Jr., and their blissful union resulted in the births of four children: Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Women's Strike for Peace, Mrs. King served as a delegate to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King took the place of her late husband in the Poor People's March to Washington in 1968; and

WHEREAS, after the assassination of her husband in Memphis in 1968, Mrs. King founded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change in 1969; and

WHEREAS, a forceful public figure and an important leader, Coretta Scott King actively served in such organizations as the National Council for Negro Women and the Women's Strike for Peace; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King became an accomplished writer and published two books, one which dealt with the life, words, and works of her husband, entitled *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, and another book which detailed her own life, *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.*; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Coretta Scott King established the annual Coretta Scott King Award to honor African American authors of outstanding educational writings; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King endeavored for decades to secure a federal holiday in honor of her late husband and the indelible mark he left on the world; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King co-chaired the Full Employment Action Council and instituted the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation, and the Black Leadership Roundtable; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King, having justly received numerous awards and honors for her bountiful life of purpose, leaves behind a memorable legacy as a hero of the civil rights movement and as the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the benevolent life of this exceptional leader, mother, wife, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the memory of Coretta Scott King, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her strength as a leader, and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. King.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.